

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 16 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the December 4, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-6, 9-11 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cisco (<http://community.roxen.com/developers/ids/rfc/rfc2305.html>); and rejects claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cisco (<http://community.roxen.com/developers/ids/rfc/rfc2305.html>). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that Cisco fails to disclose or suggest a control method of an Internet facsimile having at least the steps of receiving electronic mail containing an encrypted password relating to a control command for indicating a facsimile communication function; decrypting the encrypted password; and transferring an electronic mail document by facsimile following the control command using the decrypted password, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 6 and 11.

Cisco, at section 5.3.2, merely discloses message encryption and refers to examples such as PGP-MIME and S-MIME. Cisco further discloses that message encryption protocols, such as PGP-MIME and S-MIME, can be used to provide end-to-end encryption of the entire message text. However, Cisco fails to disclose anything about control commands and the encryption of passwords relating to such control commands.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Cisco fails to disclose or suggest a control method of an Internet facsimile having at least the steps of receiving electronic mail containing an encrypted password relating to a control command for indicating a facsimile

communication function; decrypting the encrypted password; and transferring an electronic mail document by facsimile following the control command using the decrypted password, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 6 and 11.

With respect to claims 16 and 17, the Office Action asserts that Cisco, at section 1 and section 5.2.1, discloses all of the features of claims 16 and 17.

Applicants respectfully assert that Cisco fails to disclose or suggest an Internet facsimile having at least a determination section, upon receiving an electronic mail document to be transferred by facsimile over the telephone network, that determines whether or not the transmission source is identified correctly, as recited in independent claim 16.

Specifically, Cisco, at section 1 and section 5.2.1, merely discloses that electronic mail messages should be provided with a method of preventing the disclosure of sensitive information. However, at section 5.2.3, Cisco indicates that there are no standard mechanisms for protecting such information. Cisco further indicates that the available non-standard techniques are out of band communications of authorization information. Cisco, at section 5.2.3 discloses that "use of encrypted data in special fields is the available nonstandard techniques." In section 5.3.2, Cisco merely discloses that message encryption, such as PGP-MIME and S/MIME is used to provide end-to-end encryption. Cisco merely discloses that the use of PGP-MIME and S/MIME to identify a transmission source.

Therefore, Cisco fails to disclose or suggest a determination section, upon receiving an electronic mail document to be transferred by facsimile over the telephone network, that determines whether or not the transmission source is identified correctly, as recited in independent claim 16.

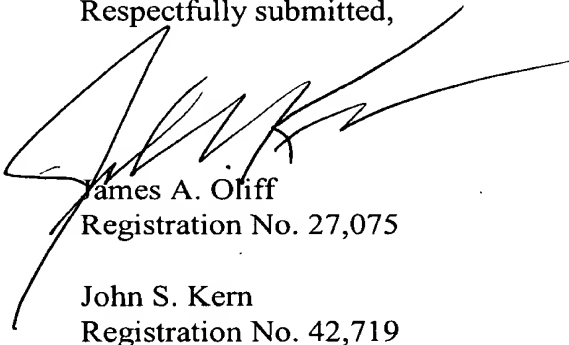
In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15 and 17 depend from claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, respectively, and therefore, also define patentable

subject matter, as well as for the additional subject matter they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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